Project I.D. No. 39

NAME: Domoto, Kenzo DATE OF BIRTH: 12/14/1881 PLACE OF BIRTH: Hiroshima
Age: 92 Sex: M Marital Status: M Education: Grade School

PRE-WAR:
Date of arrival in U.S.: 1901 Age: 19 M.S. S Port of entry: Hawaii
Occupation/s: 1. Cook 2. Vegetable Shop Owner 3. Grocery Store Owner
Place of residence: 1. Hawaii (2 yrs) 2. San Francisco(1903) 3. Los Angeles, Ca.
Religious affiliation: Christian Church
Community organizations/activities: _____

EVACUATION:
Name of assembly center: Pomona Assembly Center
Name of relocation center: Heart Mountain, Wyoming
Dispensation of property: Sold Names of bank/s: _____
Jobs held in camp: 1. Carpenter 2. _____
Jobs held outside of camp: _____
Left camp to go to: _____

POST-WAR:
Date returned to West Coast: _____
Address/es: 1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____
Religious affiliation: Christian Church
Activities: 1. Gardener 2. _____ 3. _____
If deceased, date, place and age at time of death: Deceased

Name of interviewer: Heihachiro Takarabe Date: 3/26/73 Place: Hollywood, Ca.
Translator Seiko Sasaki

Translation note: pg 6 + 10 placename of Melrose Avenue in Los Angeles transcribed as "Maygrose" or "maygrod". There is no "L" sound in Japanese - speaker probably used an "R" sound instead

Project I.D. No,39

NAME: Mrs. Domoto DATE OF BIRTH: 2/10/1898 PLACE OF BIRTH: Hawaii *
Age: 75 Sex: F Marital Status: M Education: Middle School
*Raised in Hiroshima-ken.

PRE-WAR:
Date of arrival in U.S.: 1917 Age: 19 M.S. M Port of entry: _____
Occupation/s: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
Place of residence: 1. Los Angeles, Ca. 2. _____ 3. _____
Religious affiliation: Christian Church
Community organizations/activities: _____

EVACUATION:
Name of assembly center: Pomona Assembly Center
Name of relocation center: Heart Mountain, Wyoming
Dispensation of property: Sold Names of bank/s: _____
Jobs held in camp: 1. _____ 2. _____
Jobs held outside of camp: _____
Left camp to go to: _____

POST-WAR:
Date returned to West Coast: _____
Address/es: 1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____
Religious affiliation: Christian Church
Activities: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
If deceased, date, place and age at time of death: Deceased

Name of interviewer: Heihachiro Takarabe Date: 3/26/73 Place: Hollywood, Ca.
Translator Jake Sasaki

Name: Mr. and Mrs. Kenzo Domoto

Birth Date: 1881 and 1891

Birth Place: Hiroshima Ken

The time of entry into the States: 1903

How old was he when he came to the States: 19

Major Occupation: Pharmacist and Gardener

Camp:

Interviewer: Heihachiro Takarabe
Interview Date: March 26, 1973
Interview place: Hollywood, California

Translator: Teiko Sasser
Typist: Teiko Sasser

Rec'd 9-6-74

#43

MR. AND MRS. DOMOTO MARCH 26, 1973

Q. I would like to hear about your experiences that is if you remembered the hardships and about your jobs you had while in Japan or the United States.

A. Mr. I have a little hearing difficulty so please speak louder.

Q. Please tell me frankly. It doesn't have to be a exact story and forget about the microphone. First, where is your home town ?

A. It is Hiroshima Ken.

Q. How about you Mrs. Domoto ?

A. Mrs. It is Hiroshima Ken

Q. Is it the same village ?

A. Mrs. A different village. To be exact, I was born in Hawaii. Because I was not registered in Hawaii I became Japanese born. I am Hiroshima Ken Asa Gun and my husband is Asa Gun Tomomura.

Q. What year were you born ?

A. Mr. Meiji 14, December 14.

Q. And then Meiji 14 is ?

A. Mrs. It's 1881.

Q. Oh, 1881, well, then you are 92 years old. That is great ! You are in a good health too aren't you ?

A. I can't do anything now.

Q. How old are you ?

A. Mrs. I was born February 10, 1898.

Q. Oh, I see. Then, it's 75 years old isn't it ?

A. Mrs. I am 75 years old.

Q. What was your family like in Japan?

A. Mr. A poor farmer.

Q. Oh, I see. At Hiroshima ?

A. At Hiroshima Ken Asa Gun.

Q. What were your father and mother like ?

A. They were farming.

Q. Were they strict ?

A. No, not especially.

Q. Oh, he was a gentle person. How about your mother ?

A. She was all right.

Q. Was that so? How old were you when you came to the United States ?

A. I crossed the ocean to Hawaii when I was 19 years old and came to the United states in 1903. I landed at San Francisco.

Q. You came here from Hawaii. How long have you lived in Hawaii ?

A. About two years in Hawaii, I think.

Q. What did you do, sugar canes ?

A. I worked at a sugar cane company and used a horse --unintelligible--

Q. Was it hard work ?

A. No, rather easy job.

Q. How long did you go to school in Japan ?

A. I only graduated from a grade school.

Q. Was that the only school there ?

A. The grade school was the only school in the village and no upper grades.

Q. What did you learn at the school ? Do you remember anything ?

A. At the school... well, anyhow, at first I learned I RO HA. You people would understand Japanese grade school in the old days, and present days are not much different.

Q. Did you like the school or you did not like it very much ?

A. I liked it very much.

Q. What was your family religion ?

A. It was Buddhism.

Q. Is it Nishihonganji ?

A. It is Nishihonganji.

Q. Have you heard about Christianity in Japan?

A. No, I haven't heard much. The village flourished with Buddhism and it did not have room for Christianity to spread. Anyway I have heard about it in

Japan. Christianity is on the surface approaching very gentle like but it is said to be the way to conquer the country. Therefore, they said you believe the religion that will make you a traitor. All this kind of talk--unintelligible-- ,even as children we had what you called a patriotic spirit. The Christians were the traitors and I hate it. When I left Japan, my mother bought an amulet from somewhere. There was Buddha's Namiamu dabutsu, but the amulet was called Omyobusama. I made it small and put it around my neck. Mother said you are going to some kind of an island in a foreign country that you don't see the mountains and the rivers. There won't be any shipwreck when you wear this and in case of a shipwreck you'll be saved. So I put it on my neck and I still had it when I came to the U.S.. The amulet gets wet by the perspiration and gets dirty and it could not be washed. I was worried at that time. Finally, I decided to take that off. There was a medicine called "Senkintan" in Japan. That was the same size as the amulet. I was not a Christian at that time.

Shall I tell you about when I bacame a Christian and my job?
I came to San Francisco and during the summer I worked on a Stockton farm. In the winter I came to SanFrancisco and worked at the houses. I went to a night school and learned the ABC's. There was a earthquake in San Francisco about that time. Quite some time later from the earthquake, I was at some boarding house and failed some examinations. At that time someone sent me the new testament. From that time there was a bible on a reading table. It's there but looks like nobody is opening the bible. Like an old saying "A shut mouth keeps out of strife." At first I wanted to know what is written in the book. When I opened it a little it looked easy. The book's Kanji had Japanese syllables. (furigana) Since nobody was reading the book I asked the boss for permission to read it. I took the book to my room every day after working hours and read it. I borrowed it and I glanced it through. The boss said go over the book quickly and return it. So I glanced through the book and returned it to him. Right afterward I went to a store to buy me a new one with my own money.

And again I wanted to look into Christianity so I have read the books of Iwamori Sensei's "Heimin No Sukui" and "Jinsei No Kozu" etc.. And about this time Uchimura Sensei had issued a little magazine called "Seisho No Kenkyu". The magazine was issued weekly or monthly from Japan. I bought and read them. And Uchimura Sensei's books and let's see, the books names were..... "Shisho Gokoro", "Nihon noKunino Danjo" etc. I have read the distinguished scholar's books at random. They were not very difficult books. I can read but the writing is pretty difficult. I read newspapers too. --(unintelligible)-

I have read the distinguished scholar's books that were all religious books. And before long I was saved. I was saved by the God before I went to a church.

Q. What year did you go to the church for the first time?

A. And by that time the church had Reverend Mori from Japan. He was from Japan and finished the school here and started to preach in San Francisco. I went to that church but I was saved before I went to church. And once or twice I went to the reverend's sermon. After while they found me and I joined the church. Under the circumstances I was to be baptized.and I became a Christian. with Mr. Kenji Okamoto. It was Mori Reverend's second baptismal ceremony since his Christian mission work started, I think. I was baptized with Mr. Kenji Okamoto. The name of the church was Japanese "Rikyo Kai". There were lots of Rikyo Kais. Everybody was devoted to the churgh. The people sang the songs so cheerfully. I sang with them. Everybody got together and held meetings and sang the songs again. It was quite enthusiastic affair .

Those days I was still young. Even when I had a new job I wasn't tired so at nights (unintelligible)-- , and "Nissei" selected the distinguished speaker, borrowed a old theater in SanFrancisco for a month or two months and did missionary work. I went to listen every night. I could not understand English very well but did understand, well.. I did sporadically. And they sure sang their songs. Every night I went to listen to Mr. Smith, the Evangelist. In those days there was an English hymn called "I can hear your savior calling." Just listening to that song I felt like I could hear Christ's heart or heard Christ's voice. I was crying with the enthusiasm. We had "Keshincho"(meaning not clear), which was who became Christian but want to know a little more came to listen. The Salvation Army did come and helped. The beginning of "Yokokusho"(the text of prophecies?)--(unintelligible)--

They were the Salvation Army officers. We sure were devoted to the religion in those days. It is a hard to pray but I was praying before I became Christian. The reverend took a couple young leaders to one room and for I had to prepare for a ceremony for baptism. I was praying I remember the words "Oh, God, I appreciate you let me become a disciple". Well, that is about the story that I was baptized and became a Christian. I return to Japan after that and came back again a couple of years later.

Q. I am going back on your story. You came to San Francisco and what kind of job did you do at first?

A. When I came, in summer, I was at a farm.

Q. Where about?

A. That was Watsonville area. Sacramento and Stockton.

Q. Kawashimo? (Courtland, Walnut Grove area)

A. I went Kawashimo also.

Q. Apricot?

A. Mrs. Salinas area.

Q. Stockton area?

A. Watsonville area.

A. Mr. Salinas direction, Vacaville --(unintelligible)-- .

A. I went to faraway.

A. Mrs. And he was a cook for caucasian family.

A. Mr. I was a cook. Ten dollars a week and forty dollars a month and could save some money.

Q. How much did you get when you worked at the farm?

A. Mr. Working at farm, well....

Q. Being a cook made more money?

A. Ofcourse, the grape harvest at summer time etc., made more money than being a cook. I could not save money those days. It was not easy to save hundred of dollars. I worked little while and after saved up for two to three hundred dollars went to a hotel and stayed. Spent it all up and started work again. We have a house now to live with but those days not very many owned a house.

Q. What kind of the difficulties have you had?

A. The difficulties were --(unintelligible-- . Around 1919, they were all handling the vegetables like present day gardeners. And there were no big "chain markets". All Japanese got up early in the morning and went to the market bought the fresh vegetables and displayed in the store. So neighbors came to shop. Anybody and everybody sold vegetables for a while. When we came to Los Angeles, we sold vegetables and bought store at ? street and operated vegetable store. We had three children by that time. That time we did not have sister, grandma nor anybody.but the present day we have brothers, sisters, grandmothers and friends so it is not lonely. In those days we did not have anybody. Maybe it was the second, maybe the third child's birth, my wife went to the hospital but I had a store that I could not take days off. I put two childre into my car and went to the market at three in the morning. I did not put them inside the market. I put them by the back and I did my business as usual. After it was done put children top of merchandise, came home and unpacked the load. I was in a trouble times like that. A friend of mine did the laundries for me and asked baby sit for a couple of days. They took my children but said the children were crying awful lot. Because the children were tottering age, they did not know what to do. I did my business as usual. Get up in the morning and get some fresh vegetables and had to take care the children. I needed help. I was distressed. I asked a friend of mine to keep a child for me and I went to get the child after my work was finished. The child cried awful lot, they said. I could not blame the child. I did not know what to do, When things happens like this, people, here now, even Japanese have a grandmother, sisters and so forth, but when my wife's childbirth I had take care unreasonable three or four little children and managed the store. That was the most rough time I ever had.

And I was already a christian at that time. Rikyo Kai was near by the store and it was called --?-- . I was invited to this one. For while later my wife and Mr. Sakai, the laundry owner, had their baptism. She was not a christian until then, --(unintelligible-- . There were lots Japanese church but no church buildings. They changed a house little into the church, and put some chairs in it. The poor church had the benches instead of the chairs. Put the card table in and put a big bible and the reverend preached.

Q. When did you come to Los Angeles?

A. Mrs. 1919, by highway 101.

Q. Mrs. Domoto, when did you marry ?

A. We married IN 1917 and came here from Japan.

Q. Then, you went back to Japan IN 1915?

A. Mrs. Yes, I was in Japan.

Q. How long have you stayed in Hawaii?

A. Mrs. At Hawaii, until 14 years old. I return to Japan and stayed five years, got married and came over here.

Q. You knew English when you returned!

A. I remembered English.

Q. Then, you knew about United States?

A. I knew Hawaii A little bit. I came to America IN 1917, for the first time.

Q. Was America different from Hawaii? Living in here and living in Hawaii?

A. It is different.

Q. How different?

A. Mrs. Well, speaking about how different.....I don't go out any place. It is my personality that I don't go any place. I came here to Los Angels, had three children, and owned the store. The young persons these days everybody says "We are going out please baby sit for me," and leave the child and take off, but in my days especially I did not have sisters and brothers. The children cried lot when mother was not at home. They made the troubles for father. That and this I did not go any place and stayed home and took care of the children and helped the store.

Q. How long did you own the store?

A. Mr.. Oh, that place, the vegetable shop for (SIC) MELROSE? about five years from 1919 to 1924. In 1924, we bought another store at Maryrose and Kingsley Drive. The store owner had a small business and he wanted to sell. So we bought the store. Oh, yes, we had the store until the war started, 18 years. Front was the shop and put anything and everything in the behind. We slept in one or two rooms there, but having children it was just too small so we got out. This time we bought the grocery store at Maryrose Ave. When we bought the grocery store, there was a housing shortage. We had trouble of renting one. Everybody put the beds out to the porch and slept. In Maryrose, Japanese built the church and we found a little house one block away from a Japanese church. I commute to the store at Maryrose from there. There is an old church called "Grace Hall". They were building there at that time and soon completed. Because I lived close to the church, they invited me to Kento Shiki (A ceremony similar to a ground breaking but this one is after a frame work is done). So I went. I met Reverend Horikoshi and we became friends from that time. Before this I was going to a Methodist's Church. It was called Rikyo Kai, nevertheless, I went to the church nearby. To think about it now I was meant to be connected with that church. I think, the God blessed me. And after the Kento Shiki, I acquinted with reverend and started to go to the church. It was very very close to our house so I sent my children to the Sunday School. As for Rikyo Kai, they did not like the church I went to. The church Elders came to our house for three days and said stop going to the new church and come back to Rikkyo Kai. But I promised Reverend Horikoshi that It's close and I will come to your church. So how many times they had to come and see me, I could not break my promise with Reverend Horikoshi. They came every night and just would not go home.

A. Mrs. I was Rikkyo Kai member too then and the children also. I was taking my children to the Rikkyo Kai every Sunday.

A. Mr. I said your church has lots memberships and right now Reverend Horikoshi doesn't have any members. So it should be all right that one or two people quit your church. They said, "You are a true gentleman Christian." I cried because they came two or three nights and just would not budge. That is the story. I could not say to them about what I promised to Rev. Horikoshi. And finally I became Re. Horikoshi's Church member. After I became the member , they asked me to preside over a meeting, praying and read the funeral addresses. I thought, oh, I should not join the small church like this. If it is Rikkyo Kai I did not have to do anything. Rev. Horikoshi thought I can do anything. for instance Easter or Christmas praying was my job. --(unintelligible)--

It is simple now. I have no education but presided over meetings and did this and that. I have worked hard. Soon afterward they wanted me to become an elders. --(unintelligible)--

We are so busy that we could use any help that time. So I became an elders. --(unintelligible)-- . They wanted me to take a charge of accounts, presided over meetings and praying. I could do them all those things in those days.

Q. What year was it when you became an elders?

A. 1927, I became member of the church, it's been about 30 years.

Q. You were still going to Rikkyo Kai?

A. Mrs. I was member of Rikkyo Kai. I maybe, 1920.....I came to the church over here that was about a year later. And we were transfered in a concideration that might as well whole family go to the same church.

A. Mr. And the war started.

Q. Just moment please. There was the depressions in 1932? What did you do during the depressions? How was the store ?

A. We had the store but did not have any profits, could not sell, but we managed anyhow.

Q. The money you loan to people, did they pay you back ?

A. Mrs. Oh, yes, there were, they said "Put on my bill for my groceries." Because they have been buying from our store for long time, we could not say, no, consequently, put them on an account. Before we knew it they moved away without paying us.

Q. Are they Caucasians?

A. Yes, our's were all Caucasians. There was not any money that we could not get back other than the business. Some years later some Caucasian said "I have a debt." and paid us.

Q. Your first impression of America, how was it?

A. Mrs. Impression of America ?.....

A. Mr. It was allright. There was a time of the rejections.

Q. Did you have any trouble? The Caucasians gave you hard time.

A. No, not especially. They did not give us any trouble.

Q. You have heard the stories haven't you?

A. Yes. When Rev. Horikoshi organized the church around Hollywood, we were not among them, but I heard from the others and read papers. Those days were Japanese exclusion days. Some portion of people did not want Japanese church there. So the church people helped Rev. Horikoshi. I was not member at that time but I read the paper. It sounded like they were harassed.

A. Mrs. We had the Business among the Caucasians but we did not especially feel that they hated us. The Caucasians liked us.

Q. Ofcourse you speak English, and where did you learn English? San Francisco?

A. Mr. Speaking about learning English, it is not that great.

Q. Did you go to school?

A. I went to night school.

Q. Pine(?)Church? Where did you learn English in San Francisco?

A. It was at a church.

Q. Christian Church?

A. Yes. Christian church.

Q. When you went to Japan you met your wife didn't you? Who assisted you?

A. Mr. That was a police man.

A. Mrs. He was a police man at our village in Japan. I didn't meet him exactly. I went to Hiroshima by bicycle often maybe he saw me on the way. Anyway he did not see me well enough. Simply, marriage was arranged by the parents and a matchmaker and we were married and came over here.

Q. Did you know your wife before you married?

A. No, I did not know her especially. Just I heard that she graduated from Hiroshima Girls Middle School--(unintelligible)-- Will be alright and married her.

Q. Was it a Japanese style marriage ceremony?

A. Yes.

Q. What and how did you do? The third generation would not know about the marriage ceremony. What do you do at the wedding ceremony?

A. Mrs. We did a little ceremony at the matchmakers house because we are going to America and returned to out village. At the village we had a little reception for our neighbors.

Q. Was the ceremony by the Shinto Priest?

A. No Shinto priest nor Buddhist.

Q. Like reception?

A. Just by matchmaker and the reception.

Q. Did you exchange nuptial cups?

A. Yes, at the matchmaker's house. We had a little Sake.

Q. You drink Sake, don't you?

A. Just for ceremony.

Q. When was that? 19...what?

A. Sept. 1917.

Q. So you married and came back right away?

A. Mrs. And that year about October, I think.

A. Mr. And after that I became a christian. If I had a pious life ofcourse it is because of the Presbyterian church. Anyway that was 1954. I did the bookkeeping for many years before and after the war. People praised me for no mistakes. But I had a stroke.

A. Mrs. In 1964, he had s stroke and it was his right side, right hand and leg. He could not use them.

A. Mr. The day Rev. Toyotomi was given us a sermon and it was my <u>self-sacrificing appreciation</u>(?). The stroke attacked while I was praying. I could not pray any longer. I prayed half way.

A. Mrs. But that time, he managed to walk home. We lived near Westmoreland and Bevery.

A. Mr. I worked for the church until then. After I became like this I could not do anything.

A. Mrs. And likewise maybe it was God's help that he has made his recovery.

Q. It's true. I can't tell.

A. Mrs. It don't show any more. He was limping and his hand could not hold

chopsticks at meal time, could not write with a pen, and could not speak very well. He could understand people but when he wanted to speak words would not come out from his mouth.

Q. About the first World War, anything happened with you?

A. I went to Japan and wasn't here but we could be drafted or something. Probably we had to go to war but it was easy I heard. I was in Japan so I did not know.

Q. This time, it is the Second World War. Where were you when the Pearl Harbor was bombed?

A. Mrs. At Westmorland and Beverly. We bought a store at Maryroad(sic)--(unintelligible) -- . Our house was 317 near Westmorland and Beverly. It was the North Westmorland. It was on Sunday. No school for children and we closed on Sunday so we decided to cut down a big palm tree in our back yeard. It happened in the middle of the tree cutting. A siren started to blow, Japan is attacking Pearl Harbor, radio says, and it was a chaos. And they say Japanese should not go out and said it is dangerous.

Q. How did you feel?

A. .....long silence.....Anyway, we were distressed. I was wondering what is going to happen, but I opened the store again.

A. Mrs. Everybody said, if you are going to the store they will shoot you or pick on you. We went to the store next day but nothing happened.

Q. Was there any person who was making sarcastic remarks?

A. Mrs. No. It seemed not at our store.

A. Mr. They called our attendtion to be careful it is dangerous..

A. Mrs. They did not reject us just only warned us. There are some bad people so be careful when you go out. Business was as usual they came to buy at our store.

Q. Then what did you do to your store when you were evacuationg?

A. We sold the merchandise for a mere song, sold cheap what was left and cleaned up. We did it till the end. All caucasian said it is dangerous that you should quit.

Q. You bought your store and owned it? Did you own the house too?

A. Mrs. No, the store was only merchandise and the building was owned by a Greek.

A. Mr. The store had everything and had some expensive stuff. We sold everything, meat, vegetables, canned food and did butchering too.

A. Mrs. He went to a school for butchers.

A. Mrs. I had the case to put meat in, it cost a thoudand dollars. Jew came to buy it. He bought cheap.

Q. How much was that thousand dollar one?

A. Mrs. I think it was about two or three hundred dollars.

A. Mr. It was cheap but it could not be helped because the evacuation date was already set. So I had to sell the things I had. We gave some away too what was left.

Q. Did you sell everything before the evacuation?

A. Mrs. Yes. We sold everything.

Q. Where was your luggage?

A. Mrs. Our luggage was carried to the Presbyterian Church. The Caucasian who taught Sunday school kept eyes on them.

Q. And everything was saved?

A. Mrs. Yes.

Q. When you returned everything was there?

A. Mrs. Yes. A few people among us maybe had things stolen but ours were here. Everything was put in the church and locked.

Q. That was lucky.

A. Mrs. So after the war finished in 1945, we came back to get things out.

Q. Where was your assembly center?

A. Mrs. Wyoming. Hart (sic) Mountain Wyoming. At first, the race track place, Santa Anita. No, we went to Pomona, didn't we?

A. Mr. We went to Pomona at first. We stayed about five months and then went to Wyoming.

A. Mrs. Maybe in September we went to Wyoming.

Q. When you enter the race track place, and what were your thoughts?

A. Mrs. Well, what shall I say..... I did not feel very well.

A. Mr. Nevertheless, everybody was together and lots of us could not do anything, could not say very much, we had to do exactly what the Americans told us to do.

Q. Did you feel that you'll be killed?

A. No I did not think so.

Q. With many people together, did you have any trouble?

A. Mrs. Maybe there were some troubles some where else but our place had no trouble.

Q. What sort of place was the hut that they placed you in the first time at the assembly center?

A. Mr. It was not good. It was stinky --unintelligible-- . They built a cheap camp around it.

A. Mrs. After we got in the place we were engaged in Christian mission work most devotedly. And in the fall there were the rumors that they are going to send us to Hart Mountain, and it is such a cold palce that your nose and ears will come off. It wasn't that cold after we got there. It was cold all right. The wind was blowing and it was a desert so sage brush was tumbling around and it was cold.

A. Mr. I became an unexperienced carpenter right after I got in. A church was not built yet so I went to the place every day with a hammer and a saw. And we built the church and did missionary work. The missionary meeting was held five days a week because we were amatures committee. We recieved ten dollars.

Q. What kind of work did you do?

A. I was a carpenter at first and I did painting. There was a professional man but I did some painting.

Q. How old were Your children?

A. Mrs. Our first son was a volunteer for the army and already gone and our second son went to the army also.

Q. How far did they go in school?

A. Mrs. The schoolings were high schools and the first son was right after he entered U.C.L.A. and after he came back from the army he went back to U.C.L.A. and finished it.

Q. Have you three sons?

A. Mrs. No, the oldest one was a daughter. She died before the evacuation.

Q. Did the second son go after he entered the camp?

A. Mrs. Let me see...that one was after the camp entry.

Q. The camp had many problems. There was a subject of loyalty. How did you think about that?

A. Mr. It was not quite clamourous at our camp but Tulelake was clamourous.

Q. How about a volunteer to go to the army? Was that any problem?

A. Mrs. No, only he did himself before he entered the camp.

Q. Then Hart Mt. did not have problem of the loyalty and volunteer?

A. Mrs. We did not have.

A. Mr. The elder brother became a sargant and came home. He went to Japan, the Phillippine and New Guinea. On the way to go to the New Guinea the bullets came very close to him and dropped beside him.

Q. Was your son in the Japanese Army?

A. No, not over there.

Q. Your son was not in the 442nd troop?

A. No.

Q. When you received the order for evacuation, how did you feel? Did you feel it could not be helped?

A. Mrs. We were all first generations and they put us together there so we don't get hurt probably.

A. Mr. We did not resist. It could not be helped.

A. Mrs. We went to the camp as we were told.

A. Mr. Where ever we went we weren't hungry,they fed us plenty.

Q. Were there any Caucasian church members or some organizations that helped you or they did not help?

A. Mrs. The Presbyterian church did. The main office people came and helped when we were evacuating; when we needed something they went out bought for us and watched our luggage for us, main office did take good care of us, and while we were in the camp they watched the luggage for us.

Q. What did you remember about Hart Mt.?

A. Mrs. The Christians had a lot of meetings and did missionary work.

Q. That was good for you wasn't it? How was it Mrs. Domoto? The children were all big so you did not have that kind of trouble.

A. Mrs. Yes, the children were all gone to the war. So us couple was left. so I worked at the mess hall all the time.

Q. Did you feel repugnance sometimes?

A. Mr. I don't think so especially. Well, it was more like inconvenience than repugnance.

Q. What is your hobby?

A. Mrs. Talk about the hobby..... my husband likes to read books.

Q. Did you get books in the camp?

A. Mrs. We took some with us. And among the church group we took turns to read them.

A. Mr. For two to three months Rev. Horikoshi devoted to the missionary work but he bacame ill there and went to a hopital from Hart Mr.

Q. What kind of illness?

A. Mrs.When we came back from Hart Mt., he went to a hospital right away. We were lost with out him. The members had gone to Chicago, New York, Washington and Cleveland so forth all scattered around. So there were few people came back from the camp. So we worried that maybe we could not have a church function properly even if we open our church. But Rev. Kuroda at Godo(?)church said, "I will help." and recommended that we start the church.

Q. How many members had came back when you opened it?

A. Mr. Very few. Not even ten people.

Q. Then no reverend?

A. Mr. Rev. was sick and went to the hospital. It was lung cancer. He was in the hopital at the camp, too. The members have scattered and Rev. Horikoshi was a dying patient. It was very regretable but Rev. Kuroda helped us and we built the church.

Q. When did the reverend come? How many years later?

A. Mr. The Reverend was.... well, ...Who was the reverend after we came back from the camp?

A. Mrs. Rev. Koda, Rev. Abe so forth, I don't think anybody else... Rev. Toriuchi...

Q. And how about Rev. Tajima?

A. Mrs. That was later around 1956 to 66.

A. Mr. That Reverend built the church.

Q. Since you did not have money, could you pay him his stipend at first?

A. Mrs. We received help from the board at that time.

Q. The church building was there wasn't it?

A. Mrs. The church was there that side of the Grace Hall.

Q. Built at 27 wasn't it?

A. Both. Yes, that one there and we built the church for Rev. Tajima. About ten people put up a thousand dollars to built it.

Q. When was this thousand dollars' story?

A. Mrs. When the present church was built.

Q. When was this?

A. Mrs. 1955-56.

A. Mr. The construction was finished.

Q. It was kind of difficult at first after you came back from the camp wasn't it?

A. Mr. Yes. I don't know how we did it. We could not pay him for our appreciation.(orei)

Q. And after Rev. Kuroda there was Rev. Tajima?

A. Mr. Rev. Tajima was much later. Toriumi's went over there....

A. Mrs. Oh, Toriumi san!

Q. So you thought it was impossible but it wasn't impossible.

A. Mrs. We did it some how. Everybody donated and we got help from the board also.

Q. What did you do after you came back from the camp?

A. Mrs. A peddler.... vegetables. We bought a pickup truck and sold vegetables in the residential area. They called a peddler. We did this a long time 45 to 5? And did a gardener.

A. Mr. And what did I do? We built an apartment and. There was no space for the truck to go in and out. So we quit and became a gardener.

Q. How old were you when you started as a gardener?

A. Mrs. Let me see...45...apartment 61, anyway, until 1964, he worked as gardener. He was 83 years old. He quit being gardener for nine years. So must be, he did quit at 83 years old. If he was well he will do it but he was paralized half the body and he could not use the car that's why he quit and after we quit we went to Europe in 1966 and to the Holy land. We went to New York, Canada and Niagara and we took a Greyhound bus to Canada and we went to Japan in 69.

A. Mr. We went to New York, Washigton and Niagara by a car.

A. Mrs. To Niagara at first we went to see the sale of --unintelligible-- and we stayed two nights and said to ourselves, "Let's go home." but we said, " since we came this far let's goto New York." He drove by himself. We started in the morning around 4:30 to 5 o'clock just soon as the Sun came up. From New Mexico and drove all day till 4 to 4:30 and stayed in some motel for some rest. And again..... It took us maybe eleven days to New York.

Q. When you were a peddler did you enjoy doing it? What happened?

A. Mrs. I went with him in the morning to the market. Woke up two to three o'clock in the morning and get vegetables ready and from--unintelligible-- to --unintelligible-- . We went to sell all over the place. We met many poeple and it was good experience.

Q. I'll bet that was fun.

A. Mrs. Some people always complain and some people were just nice. We met many kind of people and they treated us nice. They were glad to see us. They said, "We were waiting for you to come."

Q. Were the customers Japanese?

A. Mrs. Japanese and Caucasians too. We made rounds of places where many Japanese lived but the neighbors were caucasians too and Negroes also came out.

Q. How did they know the car was coming? Did you ring a bell or something?

A. Mrs. No, we just went there knocked on the door and parked the car in front. Then from here and there people came out and bought. You meet all kind of peole.

Q. How many hours did you work? From morning....

A. Mrs. We went to market about 5 or 6 o'clock. If we made the rould quick, we went home early. We had a regular route but some times came home early some times it was late. We could do this because there were no children at home but only two of us.

Q. You are maybe the early ones among the first generation aren't you?

A. Mrs. Already the first generation got old. It is earlier groups.

Q. What year did you come?

A. Mrs. 1903... maybe 1901 stayed at Hawaii at first for two years.

Q. What kind of life did the Japanese have at that time? There weren't very many who owned their house were there?

A. Mrs. Those days everybody was carring a blanket and moved around.

Q. When they worked on the farm, the condition was some thing like that wasn't it?

A. Mr. There wasn't anybody who had a house.

A. Mrs. Rent an apartment or they could sleep at a camp during fruits picking time. When it is finished move on to some other place. The first generation experienced many hardships.

Q. Maybe you did not think they were hardships at that time.

A. Mrs. Yes, that's right. As I look back I wonder how did I do it? Had two three children and nobody to take care of them for us. I could not go to see a show because you can't take the children with you. So I did not go any place that's why right now I still don't think I like to go out. I am used to it. I'd rather stay home and watch. I only go to the church and come back. So we don't go to the show now. If we wanted to go, we watch television, sometimes.

--The third party's voice unintelligible--

Q. Among the Isse, there were many who were active in some field. There were many people who were successful. Do you know any of them?

--Silence--

Q. Did you know PotatoKing(?)?

A. Mr. No, I don't know.

Q. Did you work for him?

Q. As for the rememberance of your past what do you remember the best?

Q. What kind of the things are staying in your head?

A. Mr. ..Long pause.. Let's see...

Q. What was the enjoyable things?

A. Mr. Well, we went to the chuch of course....

Q. The church life was your center wasn't it?

A. Mr. I did it well.

Q. That was the joy wasn't it?

A. Mrs. He did not put his hands on anything else but the church. He doesn't know about the world, Japanese league and other organizations.

Q. He did not go.

A. Mrs. Only the church. Only the fun was to go to church. He liked the church and the reading.

Q. The English was difficult wasn't it?

A. Mrs. Yes. It is hard but it's good to read so he takes out a dictionary and reads them enthusiastically.

Q. Now too?

A. Mrs. Yes.

--in material conversations deleted--

Q. Do you manage here?

A. Mrs. No. It is not to manage but he owns it. That's why we are here. We sold at Westmorland because they had a vacancy here and our age, we are old now, we like to have him close by. Since we are staying here, both of them are working, and nobody is here, it is convinient. A paint company is using. It has become a big company now.

A. Mr. --unintelligible-- , we bought that place in 1939 and went to the camp.

Q. You did not to sell.

A. Mrs. No, we did not sell. A Mexican stayed there until we came out.

Q. The house? Did you have trouble when you were buying it?

A. Mrs. No. When we had the store at Maryrose, two of our customers, sisters had the house It was an old house and too much trouble and they wanted to sell. They wanted to put advertisment in RafuShinpo. So we said, "Don't have to put an advertisement on RafuShinpo. We better buy it." So they said, "Yes, you have two boys. Buy it in either boy's name." Isse's still could not buy property in those days. So we bought there in the elder son's name and it was a good idea that we bought. After we came back from the war we had the house. there was a housing shortages in those days....

Q. And somebody lived there right? Did you asked them to move out?

A. Mrs. Yes. We said we are coming home. Domoto came home first and the Yamaguchi's, across the street from us was good enough to let him stay with them. And after they moved out we moved in. I came home later and people came back gradualy but no houses so that the Kubotas stayed in our house and Mrs. Horikoshi, the second Mrs. Horikoshi, stayed with us and the people from San Franciscoalso. That is why there were always two or three families living there.

Q. Bed rooms?

A. Mrs. There were three bed rooms.

Q. That was a big house.

A. Mrs. Yes.

Q. Did the people who stayed at the house moved out soon?

A. Mrs. Yes. They found a house for themselves and moved

A. Mr. When I came home they were still there, I asked them to let me sleep but they did not let me sleep so I even said, "I will sleep in the bathroom."

Q. Where did you go?

A. Mr. The Yamaguchis

Q. Who stayed at your house ? Caucasian?

A. Mr. They were Mexicans.

Q. How many days do they stay before moving out?

A. Mr. Not even a month, maybe...

Q. about a month?

Q. After the church bacame self surpoting, when was your independence from the church?

A. Mr. The church's independence? .....we, after that....

A. Mrs. The board was helping us until that time. The independence was.... There must be a record at the church.

A. Mr. After we came back from the camp we managed the church well.

Q. When you were building the church, did you collected money easy? Was it difficult?

A. Mrs. Two or three people with reverend went out every night. They came in the store and prayed and went out. We collected lot but Nisei's did not give too much....

Q. They were still young.

A. Mr. They were young and almost all old people, all issei did it. There were young ones too but some were married some were not. They had a little money. We could not force it, consequently, things were done by Isse's mostly.

Q. How many families?

A. Mr. To make the building?.....

Q. How much money did you gather?

A. Mrs. There are some where some record.

Q. It's all right just a rough estimate.

A. Mr. Money from the board too. We mamaged well.

A. Ithink we almost paid the church. We don't go to the church very oftern now.

Q. You must be tired aren't you?

--in material conversations deleted--

Q. How about some interesting thing.... The things about the church could you remember anything that happened? Good things and bad things.

A. Mr. The time of evacuation.

Q. That was unbearable wasn't it? There are lot more people who haven't come home aren't there?

A. Mr. There are some people who did not come back from that time.

Q. The influencial people ....

A. Mrs. Almost all the old ones passed away. Takeshita, Hohohachiro in Washigton is the one. Mrs. Takeshita taught Sunday school and worked hard. and Mizue's at Petla(?) Mrs.Mizue has passed away, and some old members here now are Kubota, Hatama and maybe that's all because Iwasaki passed away.

Tsumiyoshi came in later.

Q. When did Tsumiyoshi start?

A. Mrs. I don't know, Tsumiyoshi was maybe later. He is from Kagoshima. Mrs. Tsumiyoshi was from Okayama.

Q. Thank you very much for such a long time. You must be tired. You are the oldest among my interviewees.

A. Mr. I guess so.

Q. You are in very good health. (ogenki desune)

A. Mr. I quit car now.

Q. Until when did you drive your car?

A. Mrs. The last year December.

A. Mr. I can use it but I gave to a grandchild --unintelligible-- .

Q. What year was the car? Is it about 65, Mr. Domoto?

A. Mrs. 65Dodge, but we traveled lot withthat one. To New York with no troubles and went to Monument--unintelligible-- too. No trouble with that car.

--END--